No speech is necessary to commend this Resolution for the acceptance of the House. A mother is a mother, and Her late Majesty the Queen-Mother lived the life of a mother of a whole nation, the biggest in the world. From the tributes paid to the memory of Her late Majesty from all parts of the world during the last two weeks, we see that Her life was one of great sacrifice at the altar of suffering humanity. It is but appropriate that this Council, composed as it is of the representatives of all classes of the subjects of His Highness our Beloved and Gracious Maharaja, who is second to none in His staunch attachment to the British throne and loyalty to the person of His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor, should avail itself of this earliest opportunity to express its deep sorrow at the great loss sustained by not only His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor and the Royal Family, but also by millions of His Majesty's subjects throughout the whole Empire where the sun never sets.

Mr. V. K. KOCHUNNI MENON.

Sir, I beg to second this resolution. I do not think it is necessary for me to make any speech in support of this resolution. Her Majesty was a great Queen who had at heart the interest of our beloved country. She was also a devoted Mother. The loss of such a personage is irreparable, not only to the Royal House, but to all throughout the British Empire. I second this resolution.

President.—The resolution has been seconded by Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon. The Members of this House will unanimously pass this resolution; and I request that the resolution may be carried by all the Members standing.

The resolution was passed, the President and all the Members standing.

President.—We will now proceed to the regular business of this meeting:—First, questions and answers.

Questions and Answers.

The right to put additional supplementary questions.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

Sir, I rise to a point of order. In the last Session, I had pointed out that our rules allowed the questioner to ask more than one supplementary question. 'A' was treated as meaning one, and no ruling was given from the Chair as to whether

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more could be put. When I pointed out that in Madras it is otherwise it was said in Council that the rule in Madras is entirely different from ours. The Madras Regulation was not then in my hands. It is stated there too that " a supplementary question " may be asked. It is, however, the custom there to put many supplementary questions, and that right is given to all the members.

President.—Which is the rule you are referring to ?

Dr. A. G. MENON.

The Rule that any Member who asks a question may put a supplementary question.

President.—You are probably referring to Rule 14.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

Yes, Sir. Please see page 16 of the Manual, para 34.

President.—I believe you had tabled a motion for the amendment of this Rule ?

Dr. A. G. MENON.

But, unfortunately, it does not come up for this sitting. In the last Session, during the speeches, I pointed out, I think, that 'one' means, more than one question. It was said by the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam that it was so in Travancore. In Madras the Rule is not different. I had no evidence then to show that it is not different. To-day, I have brought the Regulation of the Madras Legislative Council. There too the words are that the member can put 'a supplementary question'. But many questions are put in the Madras Legislative Council, and for that I have also got the report.

President.—What is the rule in the Madras Legislative Council?

Dr. A. G. MENON.

"Any Member may put a supplementary question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which an answer has been given". *Any Member* may put a supplementary question. The word 'A' does not mean 'one'. It may mean 'more than one'. When I brought forward this point before the House last time, I had no evidence to show this and I had to keep quiet. In the Madras Legislative Council, a

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member can not only put one, but any number of supplementary questions. Other members also can put supplementary questions, but here there is no such ruling.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

'A' means "more than one". The Hon'ble Member for the Trichur Municipality put more than one question on the last occasion. There has been already a ruling which allowed more than one supplementary question to be put.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

The question was on a different point. The Hon'ble Member for the Trichur Municipality believed that he had a right to ask a question for each statement of fact in the answer given, but no definite ruling was given, I think, if I remember right. My point is that, in interpretation, the plural includes singular and the singular includes the plural.

President.—Are you aware whether such a question had come up for consideration in the Travancore Legislative Council?

Dr. A. G. MENON.

I don't know.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

'A' means 'any number of supplementary questions'. That is the practice in Travancore.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

Sir, Members can put more than one supplementary question. On page 591 of the Report of our Proceedings, the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam says:

"Here, only one supplementary question can be put, whereas, in Travancore more than one supplementary question can be asked". According to the statement of the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam, in Travancore it is allowed. I have no direct information, Sir. In this connection, may I point out that the member for the Trichur Municipality asked more than one supplementary question? According to rules, some said that only one question could be put; and on this, you, Sir, gave the ruling that more than one question could be put. Sir, he asked more than one question.

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President.—Will you please refer to the report? That is a different affair. No ruling was given. Of course, there was a discussion, but no ruling was given from the Chair, and it is not reported so. Of course, there was a discussion; but no definite ruling was given. Would you kindly explain, Dr. A. G. Menon, the object of the proviso in Rule 10 of the Madras Rules?

Dr. A. G. MENON.

Yes. If I, or any man travels beyond the question, the President can disallow that question. But, when we keep up within the bounds, the President, I hope, will not interfere.

President.—You say we must now compare the Madras Rule with our Rule, word for word. You say that "any member who has asked a question may put any number of supplementary questions". I will note it for a careful consideration of the matter. Then, you say that only the person who has put the question has the right to put more than one supplementary question. Is that not so? Now, you say that proviso is absent here. Why should that be omitted here? That will have to be inserted here, if required. I have no objection to that. My contention is that none other than he who put the primary question can be allowed to ask supplementary questions.

Mr. K. T. MATHEW.

Sir, not only in British, but also in other Legislative Councils, it is followed. A member can put more than one supplementary question.

President.—Of course, we are now discussing the point. Any member may put a supplementary question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which an answer had been given. If a question involves a matter of fact and if the answer was given in respect of that matter of fact, a supplementary question may be put in regard to that matter of fact if the answer is not clear. Is there scope for further supplementary questions? When we are construing each word, all sorts of interpretation may arise. As I pointed out to you, any member may put a supplementary question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which an answer had been given. If an answer had been given in regard to the question put, and that answer involved a matter of fact, in regard to that matter of fact a supplementary question may not be put. If the answer to the supplementary question involves a new question of fact, in regard to that can any further

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supplementary question be put? That is the point that I want to suggest. It involves the putting of more than one supplementary question regarding a question of fact that is implied in the answer.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

I lay stress upon the word elucidation. Supplementary question is put to elucidate a point.

President.—Or any other matters of fact with regard to which an answer has been given.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

Whatever it may be, if the answer given to a supplementary question does not elucidate that matter of fact, a further question is absolutely necessary to get the point elucidated. It is a question of elucidation. Suppose it is a question to elucidate a matter of fact. The point has not been clearly elucidated. It is open to the interpellator to ask for further elucidation of it. It is not open to the questioner to ask further questions not involved in the answer given.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

In the present case, the wording of the Madras Rule is the same as ours. "A" may include 'two' or 'more than one'.

President.—Are you going to move any amendment?

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

Any member who asks a question may put one supplementary question. The word 'one', I take it to mean 'any question or questions'. We may put any number of supplementary questions since "A" means "any" and, in the absence of the word 'one' in the rule, the law of interpretation is that singular means plural. There can be no objection for any member to put any number of supplementary questions to elucidate any fact in the answer. The Law Member is here to explain any point of order. My point is that there is no rule restricting the right of a member to ask any number of supplementary questions, and there is no need for a point of order to be raised because the Rule provides for asking any number of questions to elucidate the fact.

President.—More than one interpretation may be put on a clause, and a point of order may be necessary to clear the

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point. The Hon'ble Member for the Trichur Municipality says that the ruling limits the number of supplementary questions that can be put for the purpose of elucidating any matter of fact regarding which an answer has been given.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

Therefore, the point of order, the misapprehension, that the rule, as it stands to-day, permits of only one single question to be put as a supplementary question. Is that it? I submit that there is no such limitation anywhere in the Rules. "A" means "any one supplementary question". There is no room for any misunderstanding. Any member can put any number of supplementary questions, and that view will be supported by the same words occurring in the Madras Rules. Only an interpretation is necessary. No ruling is necessary. The misapprehension may be removed once for all.

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

At present what I would say is that, although the singular includes the plural and more questions may be asked, I have to suggest that such supplementary questions must be in relation to the original question. My view is that any supplementary question may be asked in relation to an answer given to a supplementary question to elucidate the primary question. Rules do not provide for a further supplementary question although the singular includes the plural.

President.—Supposing a question is answered, a member may ask more than one supplementary question in connection with that answer. Is it not so?

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

To the answer given to the supplementary question? I doubt this very much, even though the singular includes the plural in relation to an answer given to a supplementary question.

President.—What I want to point out is that if, in respect of a question, an answer involving a matter of fact is given; with reference to that a supplementary question may be asked and an answer made to elucidate the primary question. If suppose that also in its turn involves a matter of fact, I say, no further question can be asked on an answer given to a supplementary question, although the singular includes plural. In connection with the first question, if an answer is given, the member can put more than one supplementary question.

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Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

Certainly. I take this view.

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNY RAJA.

Apart from the correct interpretation that the singular includes plural, the chief point is that a supplementary question may be put to elucidate a point. Till that point is elucidated fully, the questioner is entitled to ask further questions. The person is not entitled to ask questions by way of supplementary questions to elucidate a point which refers to a matter independent of the primary question. That matter may be taken into consideration. That is the chief point.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

According to the procedure now followed here with regard to the answering of questions, it is doubtful whether, in the space of three years any reply will be got to some of the questions sent up by the Members.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

Is that statement made from experience—such a broad statement like that? "In the space of three years" no reply will be got. Such statements cannot be allowed.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

Of course, we had only one session. I had experience from the answers given to the other members to come to this conclusion. It was that I meant.

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

As to whether Government is justified is a matter on which there can be difference of opinion.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

I think that was one of the complaints of the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam that a direct answer was not given to his question, if I remember right.

President.—What is laid down in our rule is that supplementary questions cannot be asked in respect of matters which are forbidden by the rules. What is the object of this proviso?

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Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

As it is, the supplementary question must have relation to the answer given to the primary question. We cannot travel beyond the subject of the primary question.

President.—Any necessity for this proviso?

RAO SAHIB T. V. KASTURI RANGA AYYAR.

The proviso is an extra caution.

President.—As a precautionary measure.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

But no amendments of the rules will be required if other members are also allowed to put supplementary questions.

President.—I am only considering the various aspects of the question so as to give my ruling. We shall be assisted by the experience of the Madras Council where the wording is the same. I have seen there that not only the person who puts the question but other persons as well putting any number of questions. There I may tell you that the question-time is the most interesting hour.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

Here we finish the whole thing in a few minutes.

President.—But there question-time may take more than one or two hours. There any number of questions are asked.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

Here we are forbidden. The whole House is forbidden. Any member "who has asked a question"—it is in the rules. If that is taken away, the whole House can take part and do justice to the Council's business. I would suggest to the President to take that view. And, as we have no power to bring in resolutions to amend the Council Rules, the Government itself will kindly deal with that matter. That matter forms part of the rules. So it has to be amended by the Government itself. I request the President to take the earliest opportunity to take away the five words after "member" in Rule 14.

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President.—That is another matter.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

I don't press now.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL.

In view of the facility for doing business, I suggest that the interpretation in favour of putting additional supplementary questions may be accepted by the Government, because this is only wasting time. Any Hon'ble Member who wishes to put the question may do so at the next session.

President.—When the member says he wants notice, these questions are of no use.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

From that we can more or less understand the way in which the wind blows. Either the member wants to evade an answer or he is not able to answer.

President.—A member says " I want notice ". Then, that matter ends there.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

Even if we are allowed only the right to ask one supplementary question, the member is entitled to say that he wants notice.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL.

The member to whom a supplementary question is addressed may decline to answer it without notice, in which case the supplementary question can be put only in the form of a fresh question at a subsequent meeting.

President.—I do not think it necessary to defer the consideration of the matter. I propose to make a decision at once. Following the Madras practice in relation to the same provision in the rules, I think the same member who asks the question may put more than one supplementary question.

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